

REMARKS**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 15, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032592 by Krasnick (hereinafter Krasnick) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,654 to Ludwig (hereinafter Ludwig).

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 15, and 17-19 without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is not addressed herein.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 21-33. Claims 21-33 are supported by the original application and, hence, no new matter has been entered.

Claim 21 recites:

a meeting discussion interface for capturing substantive information pertaining to the contents of discussion during meetings in meeting discussion objects, wherein said meeting discussion interface creates (i) action item objects encapsulating information defining tasks, associated with design of said product, to be completed and (ii) commitment objects encapsulating information identifying individuals responsible to complete tasks defined in action item objects;

a design alternative interface for capturing information related to multiple designs associated with said product in design alternative objects; and

a requirement fulfillment interface for processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements encapsulated in product requirement objects by respective designs encapsulated in said design alternative objects.

Claim 26 recites:

capturing action items defining tasks to be performed during development of said product in action item objects and commitments by meeting participants to perform said action items in commitment objects;

capturing information related to multiple designs associated with said product in design alternative objects; and

processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements encapsulated in product requirement objects by respective designs encapsulated in said design alternative objects.

Claim 32 recites:

code for capturing action items defining tasks to be performed during development of said product in action item objects and commitments by meeting participants to perform said action items in commitment objects;

code for capturing information related to multiple designs associated with said product in design alternative objects; and

code for processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements encapsulated in product requirement objects by respective designs encapsulated in said design alternative objects.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claims 21, 26, and 32. For example, the cited references do not teach or suggest “processing queries related to levels of fulfillment of requirements” in the manner recited in these claims. Moreover, the claimed subject matter enables “multiple people with different roles to access and extract” from the “totality of stored information” related to the development of a product. *See application, page 3, lines 21-25.* As claimed, actions items and the commitments made by meeting participants can be recorded and tracked.

Additionally, the result of those commitments (e.g., levels of fulfillment of design alternatives generated by such commitments) may be retrieved through suitable queries.

Accordingly, the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claims 21, 26, and 32. Claims 21, 26, and 32 are patentable over the cited art. Claims 22-25, 27-31, and 33 depend from base claims 21, 26, 32 respectively and, hence, inherit all limitations of their base claims. Claims 22-25, 27-31, and 33 are also patentable over the cited art as being dependent from allowable base claims in addition to the novel and nonobvious limitations recited therein.

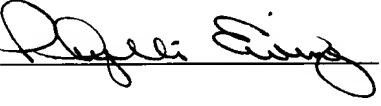
Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10003654-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482738666US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Date of Deposit: January 6, 2005

Typed Name: Phyllis Ewing

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

By


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